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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

# STEAM HEATING REGULATIONS

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# **STEAM HEATING REGULATIONS**

THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE MARCH 11, 1946



PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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STEAM HEATING REGULATIONS

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IN THE MATTER OF THE REGULATION OF STEAM HEATING SERVICE

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BY THE COMMISSION, MARCH 11, 1946:

The Commission is of the opinion that it is necessary or proper for the safety, accommodation or convenience of the public that steam heating utilities fulfill certain requirements; THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED: That the definitions and regulations attached hereto and hereby made a part hereof be and are hereby adopted for steam heating utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That Circular No. 11-A be and is hereby rescinded.

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION.

(signed) JOHN SIGGINS, JR.,

Chairman

ATTEST:

ROBERTSON C. CAMERON,

Secretary

(SEAL)

PA. P. U. C. - STEAM HEATING REGULATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| SUBJECT  | Page |
|--|------|
| Section 501. DEFINITIONS .....   | 1    |
| Section 502. SERVICE AND FACILITIES .....  | 1    |
| Rule 1. Accidents .....  | 1    |
| Rule 2. Interruptions of Service .....   | 2    |
| Rule 3. Complaints .....   | 2    |
| Rule 4. Records .....  | 2    |
| Rule 5. Change in Character of Service .....   | 2    |
| Rule 6. Use of Meter .....   | 3    |
| Rule 7. Utility to Provide Meters .....  | 3    |
| Rule 8. Location of Meters .....   | 3    |
| Rule 9. Testing Facilities .....   | 3    |
| Rule 10. Meter Tests .....   | 3    |
| Rule 11. Adjustment of Bills for Meter Error .....   | 5    |
| Rule 12. Disputed Bills .....  | 5    |
| Rule 13. Access to Meters: Discontinuance of<br>Service for Violation of Rules or Non-<br>payment of Bills ..... | 5    |
| Rule 14. Notice of Desire to Have Service<br>Discontinued .....  | 6    |
| Rule 15. Refusal to Serve Applicants .....   | 6    |
| Rule 16. Temporary Service .....   | 6    |
| Rule 17. Maps, Plans and Records .....   | 6    |
| Section 503. ACCOUNTING .....  | 6    |
| Rule 1. Accounting Systems .....   | 6    |

SECTION 501. DEFINITIONS

1. "Commission" means Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, or, as appropriate, its predecessor, the Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

2. "Public Utility" means persons, or corporations now or hereafter owning or operating in this Commonwealth, equipment or facilities for producing, transmitting, distributing or furnishing steam to or for the public for compensation.

3. "Customer" means any party supplied with steam service by a public utility.

4. "Customer's Service Line" means the customer's pipe which extends from the utility service line to the point of utilization.

5. "Service Line":

A. (Low Pressure) means the utility's distribution facilities or pipe line extension which connects any steam main in the public highway or utility's right of way with the inlet connection of a customer's service line.

B. (High Pressure) means the distribution facilities or pipe lines which connect the utility's facilities with the customer's service line.

6. "Main" means the pipe of any public utility system, excluding service line, located in a public highway, street, alley or private right of way, and used in transporting steam.

7. "Pounds of Steam" means the quantity of steam supplied, measured in pounds and is equal to the same amount of water which would result from condensing the steam used by the customer.

SECTION 502. SERVICE AND FACILITIESRule 1. ACCIDENTS

Every public utility shall submit, as hereinafter provided, a report of each reportable accident involving the facilities or operations of the public utility in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Such reports shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

A. Reportable Accidents - A reportable accident is one involving utility facilities or operations which results in one or more of the following circumstances:

- (1) Death of a person.
- (2) Injury to an employee on duty sufficient to incapacitate him from performing his ordinary duties for a period longer than three days.
- (3) Injury to other than an employee on duty sufficient to incapacitate the injured person from following his customary vocation, or mode of life, for a period of more than one day.
- (4) Occurrence of an unusual nature, whether or not death or injury of a person results, which apparently will result in prolonged and serious interruption of normal service.

Rule 1. ACCIDENTS (Continued)

B. Telegraphic Reports - A report by telephone or telegraph shall be made at once in the event of the occurrence of a reportable accident resulting in the death of a person or in the event of an occurrence of an unusual nature. [See A(1), A(4).]

C. Written Reports - A written report shall be made on Commission Form UCTA-8 immediately following the occurrence of a reportable accident as defined in A(1), A(2), A(3), A(4) above. Accidents reportable to this Commission, as defined above and of which reports are required by the Bureau of Workmen's Compensation, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, may be reported by transmitting a copy of such reports in lieu of a report on Commission Form UCTA-8.

Rule 2. INTERRUPTIONS OF SERVICE

A. Records of Interruptions - Each public utility shall keep a record (including data showing the time, duration, and cause) of any interruption of service affecting its entire system or a major division thereof. All such records shall be preserved for six (6) years.

B. Notification to Customer - Every customer who may be affected adversely thereby shall be notified prior to starting work which will result in an interruption of his service, except in cases of emergency.

Rule 3. COMPLAINTS

A. Investigations - Each public utility shall make a full and prompt investigation of all complaints made by its customers, either directly to it, or through the Commission.

B. Records of Complaints - Each public utility shall preserve all written steam service complaints showing the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint, and the adjustment or disposal made thereof. Such complaint records shall be preserved for six (6) years.

Rule 4. RECORDS

All records required by these regulations shall be kept within the Commonwealth at an office or offices of the public utility located in the territory served by it, and shall be open for examination by the Commission or its representative.

Rule 5. CHANGE IN CHARACTER OF SERVICE

In case any substantial change is made in the steam pressure which the public utility is obligated to supply or in other service conditions which would affect efficiency of operation or requires adjustment of regulators or appliances of the customers in the area affected, such equipment and appliances shall be inspected and, if necessary, shall be readjusted to meet the new conditions without charge by the utility.



Rule 6. USE OF METER

A. Steam Sold - All steam sold by a public utility shall be charged for by meter measurement except in case of flat rate service or when otherwise authorized by the Commission.

B. Other Steam - All other steam either used by the public utility or furnished to others from the steam heating distribution system shall be metered and a record thereof kept, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

Rule 7. UTILITY TO PROVIDE METERS

Each public utility, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, shall provide and install, at its own expense and shall continue to own, maintain and operate all equipment necessary for the measurement of steam furnished to its customers.

Rule 8. LOCATION OF METERS

Meters shall be installed inside of buildings; however, if it is necessary to locate a meter outside of a building it shall be adequately protected from climatic changes.

Rule 9. TESTING FACILITIES

Each public utility shall provide and keep available suitable and adequate facilities for testing its meters. Any public utility not maintaining a standardizing laboratory may, upon written permission from the Commission, have its meters and instruments certified by any standardizing laboratory approved by the Commission. The accuracy of the testing equipment shall be established and checked from time to time by representatives of the Commission. After making final adjustments, the tester shall seal and date tag the testing facilities and shall furnish the public utility with a certificate properly dated and signed.

Rule 10. METER TESTS

A. Allowable Error for Condensation Meters - No condensation meter shall be placed in service or allowed to remain in service which has an error in registration of more than four (4) per cent when the temperature of the condensate is standard (140° F.) and the average water flow through the meter is approximately equal to the manufacturer's rating of the meter.

B. Allowable Error for Flow Meters - No steam flow meter shall be placed in service or allowed to remain in service which has an error in registration of more than four (4) per cent when the steam, at its average moisture content, nominal pressure and average steam flow through the meter or its differential pressure producing device is approximately equal to the manufacturer's rating of the meter and/or its differential pressure producing device.

Rule 10. METER TESTS (Continued)

C. Periodic Tests - Each public utility shall make periodic tests of all meters in service in accordance with the following:

- (1) Condensation meters shall be tested at least once every twenty-four (24) calendar months.
- (2) Steam flow meters shall be tested at least once every three (3) years.
- (3) All meters shall be sealed or capped after the completion of periodic tests.

D. Meter Records - Each public utility shall maintain a record of each customer meter, which record shall show the name of manufacturer, type, rating, date of purchase and date installed in service, location and the removal therefrom, date of all tests and reasons therefor, and the error "as found" and "as left." This record shall be kept for six (6) years.

E. Installation Test - Each steam service meter installed shall have been tested for accuracy by the public utility previous to its installation, or shall be so tested within twelve (12) calendar months thereafter. It shall also be inspected by the public utility for proper connection, mechanical condition and suitability of location within sixty (60) days after installation.

F. Request Test - Each public utility shall make a test of the accuracy of registration of any service meter upon written request of the customer for whom such meter shall be installed, upon payment of the fee specified in Rule 10(G). When a customer desires personally or by a representative to witness the testing of a meter, he may require the seal of the meter to be broken in his presence or that of his representative. If the meter tested upon such request shall be found to be accurate within the limits specified in Rule 10(A), or 10(B), the fee shall be retained by the utility; but if not so found, then the cost thereof shall be borne by the utility and the fee paid by the customer shall be refunded. A report of such test shall be made to the customer.

G. Schedule of Fees for Testing Meters:

- (1) For condensation meters having an outlet not exceeding two inches ..... \$ 5.00
- (2) For condensation meters having an outlet in excess of two inches ..... 10.00
- (3) For steam flow meters ..... 25.00

Fees for testing meters not included in the above classification or so located that the cost is out of proportion to the fee specified, will be determined by the Commission upon receipt of complete specifications.

H. Fees for Testing Appliances of Public Utilities - The Commission shall charge and collect from utilities for testing of their measuring apparatus and condensation meters the following fees:

- For each testing facility tested at company's plant ..... \$15.00
- For each condensation meter tested at Commission Laboratory ..... 3.00

Rule 11. ADJUSTMENT OF BILLS FOR METER ERROR

A. Fast Meters - If, upon test of any meter, the meter is found to have an error of more than four (4) per cent fast, the public utility shall refund to the customer the overcharge, based upon the corrected meter reading for a period equal to one-half the time elapsed since the last previous test, but not to exceed three (3) months. If the period of registration error can be definitely fixed, the overcharge shall be computed for such period. If the meter has not been tested in accordance with Rule 10, the period for which it has been in service beyond the regular test period shall be added to the three (3) months in computing the refund.

B. Slow Meters - If, upon test of any meter, the meter is found to have an error of more than four (4) per cent slow, the public utility may render a bill for the steam consumed, but not covered by bills previously rendered, for a period equal to one-half of the time elapsed since the last previous test, but not to exceed three (3) months. If the period of registration error can be definitely fixed, the charge may be computed for such period.

C. Non-registering Meters - If a meter is found not to have registered for any period, the public utility shall compute the steam used by taking the average of the steam used for the nearest meter-reading period immediately preceding and the meter-reading period immediately following the date when the meter was found to be not registering, such computation to be based upon the degree days in the different months of use, which amount shall be assumed to be the amount of steam used by the customer during the billing period in which the meter was found not to have registered. Exceptions will be made to this rule only where the facts clearly show that the stated method does not give the correct consumption for the period.

Rule 12. DISPUTED BILLS

In the event of a dispute between a customer and a public utility respecting any bill, the utility shall forthwith make such investigation as shall be required by the particular case, and report the result thereof to the customer.

Rule 13. ACCESS TO METERS: DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE FOR VIOLATION OF RULES OR NONPAYMENT OF BILLS

A. Access to Meters - The public utility shall at all reasonable times have access to meters, service lines and other property owned by it on customers' premises, for purposes of maintenance and operation. Neglect or refusal on the part of the customers to provide reasonable access to their premises for the above purposes shall be deemed to be sufficient cause for discontinuance of service.

B. Notice of Discontinuance - No public utility shall discontinue service to any customer for violation of rules and regulations or for nonpayment of bills, without a diligent attempt to induce the customer to comply with its rules and regulations, or to pay bills due. Service shall not be discontinued until after at least twenty-four (24) hours' written notice shall have been given by the utility that bills are five or more days delinquent, or that the violation of rules must cease; provided, however, that where fraudulent use of steam is detected, or where the utility's measuring equipment has been tampered with, or where a dangerous condition is found to exist on the customers' premises, the steam may be shut off without advance notice.

Rule 14. NOTICE OF DESIRE TO HAVE SERVICE  
DISCONTINUED

Any customer who is about to vacate any premises supplied with service by a public utility, or who for any reason wishes to have service discontinued, shall give at least twenty-four (24) hours' written notice thereof to the utility, specifying the date on which it is desired that service be discontinued, provided that such service discontinuance shall be under the terms provided in the rules and regulations of the utility filed with the Commission. In the absence of such notice, the customer shall be responsible for all service rendered.

Rule 15. REFUSAL TO SERVE APPLICANTS

A. Noncompliance with Rules and Regulations - A public utility may decline to serve an applicant until he has complied with state and municipal regulations governing steam heat service and the approved rules and regulations of the utility.

B. Utility's Facilities Inadequate - A public utility may decline to serve an applicant if it does not have adequate facilities to render the service desired, or if such service is of a character that is likely to affect unfavorably service to other customers.

C. Applicant's Facilities Inadequate - A public utility may refuse to serve an applicant if, in its judgment, the applicant's installation of piping is regarded as hazardous or of such character that satisfactory service cannot be given.

Rule 16. TEMPORARY SERVICE

In the case of temporary service for short-term use, a public utility may require the customer to pay all costs of making the service connection and removing the material after the service has been discontinued, or to pay a fixed amount in advance to cover such expense; provided, however, that if the material is removed the customer shall be credited with the reasonable salvage which the public utility shall receive on discontinuance of service.

Rule 17. MAPS, PLANS AND RECORDS

Each public utility shall keep complete maps, plans or records of its entire distribution and other system showing the size, character and location of each main, district regulator, expansion joint, street valve and trap and each service connection, together with such other information as may be necessary. The maps, plans and records required by the provisions of this rule shall be kept up to date so that the utility can furnish promptly and accurately any information regarding its facilities, or copies of its maps upon Commission request. If existing plans are inadequate, special surveys to locate such facilities will not, in general, be required.

SECTION 503. ACCOUNTING

Rule 1. ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

Each public utility shall keep its accounts in conformity with the Uniform Classification of Accounts prescribed for steam heating companies by the Commission effective January 1, 1926.









